a large slaveholder, he commenced his public appeal & labors by emancipating them, & divesting himself of this very peculiar kind of property. His first efforts were cautious, but when he found a large party desperately & remorselessly bent upon maintaining Slavery, at all events, in his own words, "I drew the sword & threw away the scabbard".

He ~~went~~ joined the army of the United States in the war against Mexico; an act of inconsistency, & weakening ~~the~~ his moral position, for the Mexican war was a slaveholders' war for the acquisition of territory to enlarge the area of slaveholding States.- Mr. Clay's motive of course was not to strengthen the slaveholders' hands, but he thought to obtain a vantage ground of influence over the Southern mind, ~~much~~ ~~easily~~ moved by military renown

Mss

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